



PATENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 4, 2004

Kevin G. Rooney
Kevin G. Rooney, Reg. No. 36,330

3/4/04
Date

Applicants: Paul A. Spence et al.
Serial No.: 10/716,844
Filed: November 19, 2003
Examiner: Unknown
Group Art Unit: 3738
Confirmation No.: 6809
Title: HEART VALVE AND APPARATUS FOR REPLACEMENT THEREOF
Atty Docket No.: SPEN-02B

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

March 4, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty of candor and good faith imposed by 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and means of complying therewith according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are called to the attention of the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application. Copies of the cited references have already been supplied

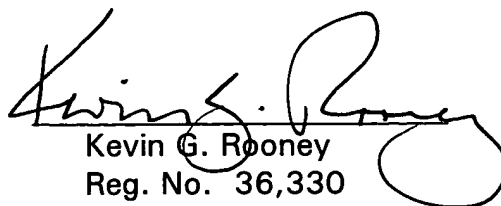
in connection with U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nos. 09/951,362 (abandoned) and 09/310,891 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,309,417). The present application is a continuation application of 09/951,362 and claims the benefit thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) copies of the cited references need not be provided herewith. If additional copies of these references are desired, please contact the undersigned and they will be forwarded immediately.

The Examiner is urged to consider all of the cited documents and to make an independent evaluation of the teachings and materiality of each.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.



Kevin G. Rooney
Reg. No. 36,330

2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-2324

K:\SPEN\02B\ids.wpd

SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. SPEN-02B		SERIAL NO. Unknown	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Paul A. Spence et al.			
(37 CFR 1.98(b))				FILING DATE November 19, 2003		GROUP Unknown	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A.A	3	5	7	0	0	1	4	3/1971	Hancock	3	1	
	A.B	3	5	7	9	6	4	2	5/1971	Heffernan et al.	3	1	
	A.C	3	7	1	4	6	7	1	2/1973	Edwards et al.	3	1	
	A.D	4	0	3	5	8	4	9	7/1977	Angell et al.	3	1.5	
	A.E	4	1	8	5	6	3	6	1/1980	Gabbay et al.	128	334	
	A.F	4	2	5	9	7	5	3	4/1981	Liotta et al.	3	1.5	
	A.G	4	4	7	0	1	5	7	9/1984	Love	3	1.5	
	A.H	4	6	0	5	4	0	7	8/1986	Black et al.	623	2	
	A.I	4	7	0	5	5	1	6	11/1987	Barone et al.	623	2	
	A.J	4	8	5	1	0	0	0	7/1989	Gupta	623	2	
	A.K	5	0	3	2	1	2	8	7/1991	Alonso	623	2	

FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)
	A.L						
	A.M						
	A.N						
	A.O						
	A.P						
	A.Q						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)		
	A.R	Dr. Giovanni Battista Luciani et al., <u>Midterm Results After Aortic Valve Replacement with Freehand Stentless Xenografts: A Comparison of Three Prostheses</u> , Article, pgs. 1287-1297, 1998
	A.S	Dr. Paolo Bertolini et al., <u>Aortic Valve Replacement With the Biocor PSB Stentless Xenograft</u> , Article, pgs. 425-430, 1998
	A.T	Dr. Xu Y. Jin et al., <u>Fifth-Year Hemodynamic Performance of the Prima Stentless Aortic Valve</u> , Article, pgs. 805-809, 1998

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not in conformance. Draw line through citation only if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

SUBSTITUTE DISCLOSURE PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. SPEN-02B		SERIAL NO. Unknown	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Paul A. Spence et al.			
				FILING DATE November 19, 2003		GROUP Unknown	

MAR 08 2004
 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

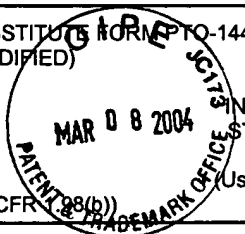
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE						
	B.A	5 0 8 0 6 6 9	1/1992	Tascon et al.	623	2						
	B.B	5 0 8 9 0 1 5	2/1992	Ross	623	2						
	B.C	5 1 4 7 3 9 1	9/1992	Lane	623	2						
	B.D	5 1 5 6 6 2 1	10/1992	Navia et al.	623	2						
	B.E	5 1 6 3 9 5 5	11/1992	Love et al.	623	2						
	B.F	5 1 9 7 9 7 9	3/1993	Quintero et al.	623	2						
	B.G	5 3 2 6 3 7 0	7/1994	Love et al.	623	2						
	B.H	5 3 2 6 3 7 1	7/1994	Love et al.	623	2						
	B.I	5 3 3 6 2 5 8	8/1994	Quintero et al.	623	2						
	B.J	5 3 6 0 0 1 4	11/1994	Sauter et al.	128	774						
	B.K	5 4 7 6 5 1 0	12/1995	Eberhardt et al.	623	2						

FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)		
B.L							
B.M							
B.N							
B.O							
B.P							
B.Q							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)	
B.R	Medtronic, Inc., <u>The Freestyle® Aortic Root Bioprosthesis</u> , Brochure, 1999
B.S	
B.T	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not in conformance. Draw line through citation only if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. SPEN-02B		SERIAL NO. Unknown							
 <p style="margin: 0;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)</p>				APPLICANT Paul A. Spence et al.									
				FILING DATE November 19, 2003		GROUP Unknown							
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER						ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	C.A	5	4	8	9	2	9	7	2/1996	Duran	623	2	
	C.B	5	5	0	9	9	3	0	4/1996	Love	623	2	
	C.C	5	5	4	5	2	1	5	8/1996	Duran	623	2	
	C.D	5	5	8	4	8	7	9	12/1996	Reimold et al.	623	2	
	C.E	5	6	0	7	3	9	3	3/1997	Ensminger et al.	604	93	
	C.F	5	6	1	2	8	8	5	3/1997	Love	364	468.04	
	C.G	5	6	6	9	9	1	9	9/1997	Sanders et al.	606	148	
	C.H	5	6	8	3	4	0	2	11/1997	Cosgrove et al.	606	150	
	C.I	5	7	1	3	9	5	3	2/1998	Vallana et al.	623	2	
	C.J	5	7	1	6	3	9	9	2/1998	Loe	623	2	
	C.K	5	7	1	6	4	0	1	2/1998	Eberhardt et al.	623	2	
FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER						PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)	
	C.L												
	C.M												
	C.N												
	C.O												
	C.P												
	C.Q												
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)													
	C.R												
	C.S												
	C.T												
EXAMINER									DATE CONSIDERED				
<p>EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not in conformance. Draw line through citation only if not in conformance <u>and</u> not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>													

SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. SPEN-02B		SERIAL NO. Unknown	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Paul A. Spence et al.			
				FILING DATE November 19, 2003		GROUP Unknown	

MAR 08 2004
 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE						
	D.A	5 7 1 6 4 1 7	2/1998	Girard et al.	623	900						
	D.B	5 7 2 8 1 5 2	3/1998	Mirsch, II et al.	623	2						
	D.C	5 7 2 8 1 5 3	3/1998	Menkis et al.	523	2						
	D.D	5 7 5 5 7 8 3	5/1998	Stobie et al.	623	2						
	D.E	5 7 6 6 2 4 0	6/1998	Johnson	623	2						
	D.F	5 7 9 2 2 1 7	8/1998	Camps et al.	607	119						
	D.G	5 8 0 0 5 3 1	9/1998	Cosgrove et al.	623	2						
	D.H	5 8 2 4 0 6 8	10/1998	Bugge	623	2						
	D.I	5 8 5 5 6 0 2	1/1999	Angell	623	2						
	D.J	5 8 7 6 4 3 6	3/1999	Vanney et al.	623	2						
	D.K											

FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)		
D.L							
D.M							
D.N							
D.O							
D.P							
D.Q							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)	
D.R	
D.S	
D.T	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not in conformance. Draw line through citation only if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.